



## Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending August 17, 2003

**Fair week for Field Work:** There were 4 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated as 52 percent adequate and 48 percent surplus. Principal farm activities included making hay; baling straw; harvesting oats; spraying pesticides; harvesting fruit and vegetables; hauling manure; spreading fertilizer and lime; fixing fences and general maintenance; caring for livestock; and attending county fairs.

**Crops:** Farmers experienced another week of thunderstorms throughout the state producing heavy rains. Farmers are having trouble getting field work done because of the amount of topsoil moisture. However, because of the rain, crops are looking very good. Soybean conditions were rated 2 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 46 percent good and 23 percent excellent. Corn reaching the silking stage has reached 77 percent, 10 percent behind last year and 12 percent behind the five-year average. Thirty percent of the corn has reached the dough stage, 23 and 24 percent behind last year and the five-year average, respectively. Six percent of the corn has reached the dent stage, 14 percent behind last year and 9 percent behind the five year average. Corn conditions were rated as 2 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 39 percent good and 30 percent excellent. Oats turning yellow has reached 99 percent, 1 percent behind last year and even with the five-year average. Oats turning ripe has reached 83 percent, 8 percent behind both last year and the five-year average. The condition of the oat crop was rated 4 percent very poor, 14 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 34 percent good and 15 percent excellent. With the continued rains, making good dry hay is a challenge for most farmers. The quality of hay made was rated 14 percent very poor, 25 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 25 percent good and 6 percent excellent. Eighty four percent of the second cutting of alfalfa hay was completed, 7 percent behind both last year and the five-year average. Thirty five percent of the third cutting of alfalfa hay was completed, 37 percent behind last year and 22 percent behind the five-year average. Five percent of the fourth cutting of alfalfa was completed, 21 percent behind last year and 8 percent behind the five-year average. There was also 42 percent of the second cutting of timothy clover completed, 28 percent behind last year and 17 percent behind the five-year average. Fall plowing increased to 7 percent complete.

**Livestock:** Pasture lands across the state continue to hold up to the thunderstorms we are having. Two percent of pasture land was rated very poor, 8 percent was poor, 17 percent was fair, 51 percent was good and 22 percent was excellent.

**Fruit & Vegetable:** Fruit tree conditions are still looking good for the year. Peach conditions were rated as 1 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 54 percent good and 30 percent excellent. The peach harvest was 52 percent complete, 17 percent behind last year and 11 percent behind

the 5-year average. Apple conditions were rated as 26 percent fair, 70 percent good and 4 percent excellent. The apple harvest was 10 percent complete, 1 percent ahead of last year and 8 percent behind the five-year average. Potatoes harvested were rated as 11 percent complete, 13 percent behind last year and 6 percent behind the five year average.

**U.S. As of August 10, 2003:** Highlights: The Pacific Northwest received limited relief from drought conditions in the form of widespread, but low precipitation and cooler temperatures in some areas. The Southwest remained hot and dry, but crop and pasture conditions improved slightly. In the Rockies, hot, dry weather continued to stress crops and pastures. Scattered showers across the Great Plains eased drought conditions but did little to improve crop condition, though most crops progressed well. Most of the Corn Belt received little rain and had slightly cooler-than-normal temperatures, causing little change in conditions and about normal progress for crops. The western part of the Delta was mostly dry, with seasonable temperatures. Abundant rainfall and mild temperatures in the Southeast and Ohio Valley maintained good conditions without slowing progress. The northern Atlantic Coast States had above-normal temperatures and adequate rainfall, improving pasture conditions. Corn: Ninety-five percent of the acreage was at or beyond the silking stage, 1 percentage point behind last year's 96 percent and 2 points behind the 5-year average of 97 percent. Thirty-five percent of the crop was at or beyond the dough stage, behind last year and the average pace of 45 and 48 percent, respectively. Nine percent of the crop had reached the dough stage, 5 points behind last year and 6 points behind the average. Even though most States are nearing completion, silking continued to trail the normal pace in the Corn Belt and Great Plains. Doughing progressed well, but was still behind the normal pace in most areas, especially the Corn Belt and Great Plains. Following the trend of earlier development stages, denting was behind the normal pace in most areas. Soybeans: Ninety percent of the crop was blooming and 62 percent was setting pods, compared with 93 percent blooming and 69 percent setting pods on this date last year. On average, 93 percent of the acreage would be blooming and 71 percent setting pods on this date. Winter Wheat: Harvest advanced to 96 percent complete, compared with 94 percent for last year and the 5-year average. The last of the Great Plains fields were harvested and in the Corn Belt, only Illinois and Michigan farmers have not yet completed their harvest. Barley was 32 percent harvested, 16 percentage points ahead of last year and 7 points ahead of the 5-year average. Minnesota farmers, aided by dry conditions and warmer-than-normal temperatures, harvested a third of their crop. The oat crop advanced to 57 percent harvested, 8 percentage points behind last year and the 5-year average. Farmers made good progress in most States, with Minnesota farmers harvesting nearly a fourth of their crop. Progress remains well behind normal in the Ohio Valley, where wet conditions have hampered progress for several weeks.

# Weather Data For Week Ending August 17, 2003

STATION	LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY						April 1, 03 - August 17, 03					GDD
	TEMPERATURE			PRECIPITATION			PRECIPITATION			GDD BASE 50F		BASE
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	TOT
NORTHWEST												
Erie	84	63	73	+3	0.09	4	15.66	-0.64	63	1766	-16	2977
Franklin_AG	86	62	73	+5	0.75	5	24.61	+5.53	93	1623	-67	2880
Meadville	84	61	72	+5	0.36	6	22.55	+3.91	77	1635	+87	2880
Mercer	87	62	74	+5	0.71	5	27.92	+9.94	69	1399	-273	2631
Springboro	85	58	71	+1	0.18	2	20.51	+4.17	72	1530	-248	2736
Warren	87	64	74	+6	0.35	3	27.47	+8.64	72	1610	-35	2836
NORTH CENTRAL												
Bradford_Region	83	56	70	+6	2.10	4	23.63	+4.64	80	1275	+65	2456
Emporium	89	63	74	+9	0.35	3	26.49	+7.21	78	1668	+317	2928
Kane	82	54	67	+4	1.12	3	22.62	+3.47	65	924	-268	2017
Laporte	84	62	72	+4	1.98	4	24.32	+6.73	75	1471	-221	2652
Lock_Haven	91	66	76	+7	0.85	3	20.19	+2.89	68	1922	+134	3203
Port_Allegany	85	62	72	+8	1.30	4	25.44	+7.49	70	1390	+55	2572
Renovo	89	65	75	+6	0.71	3	20.62	+3.32	78	1811	+23	3087
Ridgway	87	60	72	+7	0.47	2	20.33	+1.05	67	1381	+30	2603
Stevenson_Dam	88	64	75	+10	0.05	2	22.89	+3.61	81	1652	+301	2910
Towanda	87	64	75	+6	0.85	3	23.24	+8.68	88	1650	-55	2875
Wellsboro	84	59	71	+7	0.35	2	21.54	+6.84	70	1407	+125	2589
Williamsport_AP	89	66	76	+5	1.91	3	23.10	+5.84	69	1979	+6	3260
NORTHEAST												
Hawley	85	59	73	+6	0.79	2	19.71	+3.20	63	1493	+37	2717
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	87	63	74	+4	4.80	3	23.15	+6.94	65	1890	+13	3144
Susquehanna	87	63	76	+10	0.42	3	22.13	+4.43	64	1833	+437	3065
WEST CENTRAL												
Butler	89	62	74	+5	0.75	4	21.13	+3.10	74	1748	-2	3037
New_Castle	90	63	75	+7	0.73	1	26.31	+9.90	67	1868	+113	3164
Slippery_Rock	89	61	74	+7	0.76	3	26.04	+8.55	74	1784	+200	3072
CENTRAL												
Altoona/Blair_C	86	62	73	+4	1.36	5	19.42	+3.51	84	1798	-79	3059
Du_Bois	86	59	72	+5	0.04	2	23.28	+5.25	83	1555	-78	2794
Lewistown	92	65	77	+5	1.49	3	20.63	+3.39	64	2043	-13	3334
Middletown	90	67	78	+4	2.84	5	24.60	+7.89	75	2220	-97	3516
Prince_Gallitzi	87	60	73	+6	0.54	5	19.71	-0.72	77	1639	+136	2872
Selinsgrove	89	66	77	+7	1.34	3	22.01	+4.68	71	1910	-16	3185
State_College_P	86	64	74	+5	1.16	3	22.97	+7.04	73	1896	+37	3170
EAST CENTRAL												
Allentown-Bethl	90	66	78	+6	1.31	2	23.30	+5.37	68	2115	-10	3393
Lehighnton	88	66	76	+5	1.19	3	26.80	+8.92	79	1847	-206	3104
Matamoras	86	61	74	+4	1.19	2	20.71	+2.33	70	1611	-249	2832
Tobyhanna	90	68	78	+13	0.50	3	28.18	+8.89	75	1958	+677	3216
SOUTHWEST												
Pittsburgh/Alle	88	64	76	+6	0.49	3	18.25	+1.24	80	2102	+218	3424
Derry	88	61	73	+5	0.92	2	26.02	+8.41	71	1855	+82	3130
Meyersdale	86	58	70	+1	0.89	3	21.73	+2.38	78	1380	-351	2595
Mount_Pleasant	86	62	73	+6	0.43	2	24.13	+4.31	78	1829	+252	3123
Pittsburgh_Intl	88	63	76	+6	0.08	3	19.47	+3.46	72	2065	+94	3382
Rector	90	59	74	+7	0.41	3	23.92	+4.10	70	1853	+276	3140
Waynesburg	88	63	74	+5	0.33	3	28.13	+10.57	80	1921	+97	3230
SOUTH CENTRAL												
Biglerville	89	65	76	+3	1.81	3	24.95	+9.51	84	2085	-181	3379
Everett	90	64	76	+6	2.46	4	22.36	+6.85	80	1858	+3	3137
Hanover	89	66	77	+3	3.48	4	24.51	+9.07	64	2101	-165	3393
Shippensburg	91	64	77	+4	1.96	3	21.76	+6.35	64	2211	-39	3512
South_Mountain	86	60	72	+3	1.28	3	25.67	+9.76	69	1680	-190	2918
York_AP	89	64	76	+3	2.23	3	19.22	+2.16	72	2115	-140	3407
SOUTHEAST												
Green_Lane	94	65	79	+8	2.01	4	26.71	+9.18	67	2248	+222	3542
Hamburg	90	68	78	+8	0.65	3	24.13	+3.61	70	2054	+199	3332
Hopewell	89	66	77	+3	0.71	3	23.44	+5.20	68	2003	-375	3265
Lancaster_AP	89	67	77	+5	1.63	3	18.36	+0.39	65	2108	-27	3395
Neshaminy_Falls	93	70	80	+8	0.10	1	18.32	-2.17	65	2240	+124	3523
New_Holland	92	66	78	+5	0.88	2	22.07	+4.10	70	2092	-43	3373
Philadelphia	92	71	80	+5	0.53	3	19.27	+1.76	62	2566	+126	3881
Philadelphia_NE	92	70	80	+4	0.07	2	17.72	+0.21	68	2339	-101	3636
Reading_AP	91	68	78	+6	1.01	2	19.89	+0.88	69	2189	+90	3471
Valley_Forge_Na	98	66	79	+5	0.67	3	24.58	+6.34	69	2057	-321	3328
Willow_Grove	88	68	78	+6	0.19	1	16.99	-3.50	59	2173	+57	3455

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).  
Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) and Pan Evap in inches.  
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.  
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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# INTERNET REPORTERS' COMMENTS, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service,  
Farm Service Agency, farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

"Four days of no rain made for a busy week. Lots of hay was mowed and baled this week until unexpected rains came in on Thursday night. Farmers have had problems getting hay to dry because of the excessive ground moisture."

- Ron McCorkle, Crawford County

"Good week for field work - finally. Losses on some small grain harvest due to shattering, depending on species and variety. Others with excellent yields. Hay harvest still behind, due to inability to take off first crop until recently."

- Harry Blanchet, Forest County

"Wheat crop harvested is light in test weight and yields reported are around 45 bushels per acre. Oats is also lower in test weight than normal. Wheat and oats crop were damaged heavily by rain storms and high winds. This has slowed harvesting. Corn is silking up and very little in dough stage. Corn is about a month behind compared to previous years. The dry hay crop is in very poor condition. Many farmers have had difficulty making dry hay. Many acres of hay mowed and either left or chopped up back on fields. Many farmers were hoping to make 2nd and 3rd cuttings of good quality dry hay and it is not happening. The positive of the week is no rain for five consecutive days. Soybean crop and pastures appear to be most productive crops in the Clarion/Venango/Forest/ Warren counties."

- Thomas Tanner, Forest County

"Finally a chance to make some hay, harvest some grain and make some fall plantings. Condition were not excellent but much improved."

- Burell Whitworth, Clinton County

"Finally more than 1 day of sunshine in a row. Corn has been stunted by excess moisture. Hay balers are getting stuck while baling."

- David Stratton, Potter County

"A wet beginning and a wet end to a very hot humid week. Severe T-storms passed through the area on Saturday. Drenching hopes of getting hay dry and into bales."

- Willie Keeney, Susquehanna County

"Good week for crops. Most days suitable for some field work. A half an inch in my rain gauge but 3 miles down the road they had 3 1/2" in one night. Rainfall depended on where the thunder storms passed by."

- Dick Decker, Centre County

"Weed breaks appearing in many crop fields, most likely related to all of the rain this season. Crops look good but sure could use some sunshine and warmer temperatures. Cannot recall ever having this much soil moisture at the end of August. Many areas of fields are still too wet to travel through."

- Paul H. Craig, Dauphin County

"We got some hay made this week, but I can't believe how wet the ground is. Our neighbors that tried to plant late corn is yellow from all the rain and very short. We are glad we didn't try to plant any, just a waste of seed."

- Marina K., Huntington County

"Rain tale of two years. Last year you hoped for just a couple of tenth's; this year you get a couple of inches. Last Monday there were places in the Eastern end of the county had 4 inches in less than an hour. Black-out should remind us all to check our portable generators; they're not much help if they are not working."

- Dave Stetler, Juniata County

"Fair week for field work considering how the season has been going. Some areas still got heavy downpours and made little harvesting progress. A little dry hay was baled on Friday. Still some first cutting being made. Warm nights are just what the corn and soybeans need to catch up. Warmth will need to continue well into September for the later-planted crops."

- John Lohr, Westmoreland County

"Showers were spotty this week, but eventually all of the county got some rain. Some areas suffered wind and light hail damage. No significant crop damage noted at this time. Corn is still looking like the best crop in the past three years. Hay has been abundant and quality is good at this time. Soybeans are looking excellent. Corn silage harvest expected to begin in a week or 10 days. Some early fields with short season corn has been cut."

- Thomas Kerr, Franklin County

### PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 17, 2003

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>		
Fall plowing	7	6	9
Corn, silk	77	87	89
Corn, dough	30	53	54
Corn, dent	6	20	15
Oats, turning yellow	99	100	99
Oats, ripe	83	91	91
Oats, harvested	52	75	75
Potatoes, harvested	11	24	17
Alfalfa, 2 <sup>nd</sup> cutting	84	91	91
Alfalfa, 3 <sup>rd</sup> cutting	35	72	57
Alfalfa, 4 <sup>th</sup> cutting	5	26	13
Timothy clover, 2 <sup>nd</sup> cutting	42	70	59
Peaches, harvested	52	69	63
Apples, harvested	10	9	18

### PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 17, 2003

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn	2	6	23	39	30
Oats	4	14	33	34	15
Soybeans	2	6	23	46	23
Quality of hay made	14	25	30	25	6
Pasture conditions	2	8	17	51	22
Peaches	0	1	15	54	30
Apples	0	0	26	70	4

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